

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

May 15, 2007

**7:00 PM
Aldermanic Chambers
City Hall (3rd Floor)**

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by Alderman Thibault

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. There were fourteen Aldermen were present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long, Duval, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil,
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest.

Mayor Guinta advises that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Guinta requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Robert Tarr, 318 Spruce Street #3, Manchester, stated:

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen. Tonight I am here to talk about city economics and the future of Manchester, the current that concerns me that the past budget that was passed which was a sixty dollar tax cut which means that residents will get sixty dollars back in their taxes at the end of the year. What concerns me that the fact that ever looked back also as we step back a few months the same board also passed a sewer tax increase. Twenty five percent this April, twenty percent, twenty percent, fifteen percent for the next four years. If you look at that as, Alderman Osborne, had mentioned in one of the last meetings it's around a thirty-five dollars pay out for this April. You take Thirty five dollars out of sixty that leaves just about a Twenty Five dollars savings to the tax payer. You look back even further in the past meeting that just happened, the CIP Committee chose not to fund Eighty Eight

thousand dollars for the Convention and Visitors Bureau. The Mayors budget had that proposed in that, also continuing wasteful spending throughout this board. Again, as I mentioned in past meetings there was a vote for a light on Massabesic and Cypress. Twice it was voted down third it was voted up. Again wasteful spending. So as Alderman Gatsas has one said 'smoke and mirrors'. I kind of agree in that sense. When we really look back at this we asked ourselves and myself I ask in my opinion, "What has this board done for Manchester?" Obviously, they have done a great things for Manchester, and I'm very please with that. However some things I'm not very pleased with again, like I mentioned, 'This board is taking away social capital by taking away the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and not funding that. They are also not allowing. They have allowed the school district to tap into some of their resources for one point two million on top of the budget they were given, but that again does not accurately fund school budget. We approve tax hikes, we should approve tax hikes. Tax hikes are either property or other. So again we call on tax cut this year you might call it a reserved tax cut because it was not as what we expected. So again if feel that Manchester's future is in its fading and I hope that at future meetings that we can try to approve more funding for things that are necessary. Like I said I'd would like to see somewhere we can keep visitors bureau opened and functional it is a great deal of service to the city it brings people to it brings business', brings entertainment and also helps our Rooms and Meals Tax, so that we do rely on. Again, in closing your Honor, I do support your spending freeze as you are opting for tonight I hope that you do with that, I do believe the duty of spending freeze every once in a great while to try to reduce the cost of the city has been charging to the tax payers. Thank You

Glenn Ouellett, 112 Auburn Street, Manchester stated:

I was up here about one month ago and I talked about controlled democracy. I didn't expect to see it happen again but it happened again in these Chambers two weeks ago. There are three Aldermen who were allowed to speak to represent their own constituents. After a vote was passed the Alderman said: "We will give him 5 minutes", that is not democracy, that's controlled democracy. Let me remind that every one of you was elected by your, your constituents in you wards. Neither, any of you have a right to talk another Alderman that they will not speak on certain issue after the vote was passed. That's not democracy. That is very upsetting when this happens in a city like Manchester. This is a great city and we don't need that kind of horse playing around. We have too many important issues in this city to deal with. And there is nothing wrong with dialogue. Debate and dialogue is what makes things happen for this city. Keeping people hush-hush doesn't do that it just angers the other person. Remember people that this city according to its charter is non-political. It does not matter if you are a Democrat, Republican or Independent if you were elected by your people in your ward or Alderman at Large for example or the Mayor, you represent those people and you have a right to be spoken or all the issues are confronted this body. Pertaining to your sixty dollar tax cut sounds like great news, but is it really? If you were taken that final one and one half million dollars that was left over after you appropriated enough funds to keep the city going, and keep our services and keep us safe, you could have turn that sixty

dollars into one hundred eighty dollar, if you just would have taken that money, that million and half dollars and made an extra payment on the Verizon Arena. Twenty years from now we are going to pay, be paying that we are going to be up to here with it, because it goes up and up every year. I'm sure the taxpayers would have preferred to see one hundred and eighty dollars in their pockets than sixty dollars now. That sixty dollars is not going to be much come next year this time around for the budget because you will have to add at least eighty to hundred just to get started. Don't forget you took this money from a one time account, it won't be there next year, so you have to find those funds somewhere. So be prudent with the taxpayers money your suppose to be our stewards after all. And parking, parking is not as much a mess as you people think it is, I'm down in the Millyard everyday, the Bedford lot, is underused there always space there and that is right smack in the middle of the Millyard. People will have to do a little walking, its healthy, for one thing and another thing maybe that is a piece of land that you might want to sell, or build a garage and have building built on top of it and charge tax for the building. You sold two parking garages in the last few years and one Alderman two weeks ago stated that after all this was their money, so we are giving it back to them. I wish you would have said the same thing when you sold those garages. It wasn't our money then cause had plans for it. The next time we are going to have a tax cut, excuse a tax decrease, its called tax cut its going to be in 2009 and do you know why? It's another election year so stop playing politics and do the work you were elected for and stop this controlled democracy. Everyone of you have earned the right to speak on all the issues. And nobody should be told after a vote now I will give 5 minutes. That really makes a lot of sense. Thank You.

Jen Howard I'm with City Year, New Hampshire and my colleague Shannon is passing out some information stated:

I'm here tonight to update you on the services that is going to take part as a day of our National Convention CYZYG, which coming up in June in which Mayor Guinta is a co-chair of the host committee. On that Friday June 15th City Year is planning a service which will engaged thirty five hundred volunteers in service in the State of New Hampshire. Twenty five hundred of them will be serving in greater Manchester. I want to give you an overview of some of the projects in the area that we will be serving, and of course invite all of you to join us in that day of service. Our theme for our service day is, "Building a brighter future", promoting and providing healthy environments for New Hampshire Youths. By building communities and preserving the environment, so our project focus on neighborhood revitalization, park clean up school engagement projects, as well as projects targeted at cleaning up the environment and providing some resources to protect our natural environment here in New Hampshire. At this point of the thirty five hundred people were hoping to engage we service slots for three thousand volunteers, and confirmed twenty five hundred volunteers to work with us. This includes our City Year members that are coming for the conference, employees from our corporate sponsors, the Timberland company and Comcast, as well as other AmeriCorps programs volunteers in the state. One of the sheets that was passed out is review of the schedule of the day. The kick off is planned to start at

8:30 in downtown Manchester. The confirmed speakers include Senator Gregg, Governor Lynch as well as Mayor Guinta, Mayor Marchand, Jeff Schwartz from the Timberland Company and Michael Ward from CSX, as CSX is the service day sponsor. The day of service then takes place all day and we again convene at the end of the day for a celebration again in downtown Manchester. The packet gives you information sort of over viewing some of our projects, you can reference a map in there of the Manchester area and see some of the impact areas that we are serving. To highlight some of the projects, we're doing park clean up in partnership with the Parks Department, center city and the West Side. We're doing school projects, Beech Street School, Gossler Park School and Parkside Middle School. We are doing downtown cleanup including landscaping along Canal Street, and we're doing murals with the Manchester School District, that will then be put up promoting wellness and literacy in every school within the city. All of these service projects are in partnership with over 20 non-profits 8 city departments and will impact many community members and schools in use in the city. So I just want to provide that update and overview to you all, and again please join us to serve in the Manchester Community on June 15th. Feel free if anyone has any questions and would like more information Any questions?

Alderman Shea stated thank you. I'm an Alderman in Ward 7. Two parks in my Ward, Prouts Park and Howe Street Park, and I would hope that there would some consideration given to those. Thank You.

Aldermen O'Neil stated: Just on another subject, regarding City Year. Everyone should have in front of them a couple of different hand outs regarding the Young Hero Graduation, which is the Saturday at 10:30 at the PAL Building, and everyone that can make it that would be fabulous.

Alderman Pinard stated just a quick, these girls will be on one of my shows in the next few weeks, so the people of the city of Manchester will be able to know what these kids are going to be doing. Three thousand kids is an awful lot of kids to be in one city. If they're all there to help clean the city I think that my little show will kind of notice that we'll have the seniors on here, I think it will be might good for the seniors to contact the Mayors Office to put you to work and then you can contact these kids. Thank You,

Alderman Lopez stated: thank you Mayor. Would you go into what the city's obligation is, like the Parks and Recreation trucks or Highway. Is that been coordinated to pick up anything then?

Ms. Howard responded: yes I'm working both the Parks in that Highway Department to coordinate to pick up brush and trash in term of anything that we do clean up from any of the areas in the city.

Alderman Smith stated: Thank you your Honor. I notice your map and so forth, I just happen to represent Ward 10, and there is several recreation areas and there is no work to be done in Ward 10, that I know of. Can you tell me how you determine what sites you would do and why you are doing them, and why some sites have not been recognized.

Ms. Howard: sure, we held starting few months ago, had some meetings with different city departments to help us identify some of the areas in the city that we could target, through physical service, through a one day service event, so maybe that was with Parks and Recreation Department the weed and feed committee the department of Health and some other individuals that helped us kind of focus some of our projects in different areas, and we developed them from there. Can you tell me where Ward 10 is?

Alderman Smith stated: thank you your Honor. I'm really concerned, we have an adult softball league and it's utilized morning, noon, and night, Wolfe Park off of Harvell Street, and the adults are always asking me some kind of restoration and it needs a lot of work, but there's not enough money to do all the sites. This is adult softball league, that's, We also have seniors playing there in the morning, 65 and older, but this utilized 7 days a week, probably 8 to 10 hours a day.

Alderman Forest stated: Alderman Smith if you look on page 3 of 4 they did coordinate with planning and all that. Piscataquog Park and the trails there are going to be part of it, I know you are adding Wolfe's Park to it but they did coordinate with the West Side as far as places over there and your Ward was included, by the way.

Alderman Smith stated: can I rebut that for a minute, I get more complaints from the adult league and the seniors at Wolfe Park than I do. I know that the Parks and Recreation will maintain the River Park, but as you well because of the floods and so forth and we're trying to utilize the trail way. If you would certainly address the needs of the people on Harvell Street the adult league and the seniors I would certainly appreciate it. Thank You.

Ms. Howard responded: I would certainly look into that project and see if it something that we can do as part of our day.

Alderman DeVries stated: Thank you. Just one to leave you on a down note because I think we could probably use 5,000 volunteers every weekend helping catch up on projects in the city. And I just don't want you to feel that we haven't any undermined all the great effort and planning we're very thankful for everything you are going to do, and we welcome you organization and mass into the city. Thank You.

Mayor Guinta stated: I would just as a matter of edification for the board and the public. When we first sat down with City Year, its probably almost a year ago now, there was a very, various process to try to get CYZYG here in Manchester, and we we're against, I

recall Philadelphia, maybe Detroit, and there several cities across the country that were vying for this event and I want to thank City Year and Timberland and some other city areas in the state who were very instrumental in bringing, putting the best application forward for Manchester, we were very fortunate to win. They have been working with St. A's very quietly to try to make this a fantastic effort. But I think were almost two thousand volunteers who are just going to be in Manchester. Is that correct? Two Thousand volunteers of the thirty five hundred that are going to be scattered throughout New Hampshire, so I think that the collective words of the board is Thank You very much, and obviously there is always more. That we would love for you to consider. So if can consider the Alderman's request and try to get the maximum amount of potential out of what is already a great effort in the city, we would very much appreciate it and we do very much thank you for your hard work, its been long year, it does not go unnoticed. As I'm sure everyone knows it is National Public Works week beginning the 20th of May and one of the things I've talked about in the last year and will continue to talk about, not only how we can improve our services and our city and our efficiencies, but also acknowledge when our departments do good work. From time to time we have acknowledged different departments certainly the Highway Department, Public Works Department, has been acknowledged and should continued to be acknowledge for what I considered at least particularly in the floods, now two floods in less than a year and half. The exceptional work you and your staff, have done. So I do want to acknowledge tonight rather than waiting till next week a proclamation acknowledging Public Works Week that does begin May 20th and concludes on May 26th and I'll read it: "Where as Public Works Services provided in our community are interval parts of our citizens every day lives and where's a support of an understanding and informed citizenry is vital to the efficient operation of Public system program such as water, sewerage, streets and highways, public buildings and solid waste collections and whereas the health safety and comfort of this community greatly depend on the facilities and services and whereas the quality and effectiveness of these facilities as well there planning design and construction is vitally dependent upon the efforts and skills of public work officials, and whereas the efficiency of the qualified and dedicated personnel who staff Public Works Department whose material influenced by the people's attitude and the understanding of the importance of the work they perform." Therefore I Frank Guinta by virtue by authority vested in these matter in the city of Manchester do hereby proclaim next week May 20 to the 26th to be national "Public Works Week" and I encourage everybody to acknowledge and honor our Public Works employees. Congratulations!

Frank Thomas Stated: thank you your Honor. I want to thank everybody, especially the Mayor for this proclamation. All the services the Public Works provides are basic to the quality of life that the residences of Manchester expect. Many times the services that we do provide go unnoticed until that trash barrel does not get collected or that street does not get plowed or the sewer backs into your basement. I think that our Public Works operation is one of the better ones in the state maybe even New England. It's one of the better operations, because of our employees, our employees are our greatest asset as you have

heard me say in the past.. And again I want to thank you Mayor for recognizing public works and public works week. Again, Thank You.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Long it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

There being no further business to be presented on motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Long, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk